Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 125178
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-02 MMO-04 EUR-12 PRS-01 PA-02
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DRAFTED BY AF/P:MGOULD:ADR
APPROVED BY AF/P:RADUMAS
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE MAY 27 PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY 27
FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Q: THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS THAT DURING HIS TRIP TO
AFRICA, QUOTE, AMBASSADOR YOUNG MANAGED WITHIN 24 HOURS TO
ENRAGE THE SWEDES, THE RUSSIANS, THE BRITISH, THE BOROUGH
OF QUEENS, AND ALMOST CERTAINLY HIS OWN STATE DEPARTMENT.
END QUOTE.

THE QUESTION IS: DOES THE SECRETARY BELIEVE THAT THE
NEW YORK TIMES IS INACCURATE IN THIS REPORT?

A: THE SECRETARY IS PLEASED WITH THE TRIP THAT AMBASSADOR
YOUNG TOOK. HE FEELS THAT IT WAS A PRODUCTIVE ONE, AND
HE FEELS THAT IT SERVED AS A USEFUL PURPOSE.

Q: WELL, IF I COULD REPEAT THE QUESTION, WHICH YOU EVADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 125178

COMPLETELY, DOES THE SECRETARY BELIEVE THAT THE NEW YORK
TIMES IS INACCURATE IN THIS REPORT OF ALL THE GROUPS THAT
HAVE BEEN ENRAGED?

A: I CANNOT SPEAK FOR ANYBODY ELSE, BUT THE STATE DEPART-
MENT MOST CERTAINLY IS NOT ENRAGED.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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Q: CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING MORE ABOUT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY LAST NIGHT? I THINK IT WENT ON FOR OVER TWO HOURS.

A: WELL, IT WAS A VERY FULL REPORT ON WHAT HAD BEEN A VERY FULL AGENDA BY THE AMBASSADOR. IT COVERED, I BELIEVE, ALL THE BASES, I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO DETAILS OF WHAT THEY TALKED ABOUT.

Q: I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'VE BEEN SAYING ANYTHING AT ALL FROM THIS PODIUM ABOUT THE MISSION IN WHICH THE U.S. IS ENGAGED WITH THE BRITISH IN THE CURRENT SEARCH FOR NEGOTIATION ON RHODESIA. U.S. AMBASSADOR STEPHEN LOW IS NOW IN SALISBURY WITH JOHN GRAHAM OF THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE CURRENT TRACK IS OF AMERICAN POLICY?

A: THE UNITED KINGDOM CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON RHODESIA HAS BEEN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA SINCE MAY 17TH. HIS TRAVEL IS TO LUSAKA, GABORONE AND DAR ES SALAAM, CONFERRING IN EACH OF THOSE PLACES WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS NATIONALIST ORGANIZATIONS.

AS YOU WILL RECALL, THE CURRENT BRITISH EFFORT, WHICH WE SUPPORT, IS AN ENDEAVOR TO HAVE THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES TO THE RHODESIAN DISPUTE COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON A CONSTITUTION FOR AN INDEPENDENT STATE AND THE NECESSARY TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO MOVE RHODESIA FROM MINORITY TO MAJORITY RULE.
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THE MEETINGS IN SALISBURY ARE PART OF THE INITIAL ROUND OF TALKS, WHICH ARE PRIMARILY EXPLORATORY IN NATURE AND AIMED AT DEFINING AREAS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION.

Q: REUTERS REPORTS THAT SWEDEN'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ANDERS THORNBURG, HAS ASKED THE U.S. MISSION FOR AN EXPLANATION OF YOUNG'S REMARK ON WEDNESDAY THAT THE SWEDES ARE TERRIBLE RACISTS; AND MY QUESTION IS: DOES THE SECRETARY, IN HIS CONCLUSION THAT THE AMBASSA-DOR'S TRIP WAS, AS YOU SAY, PRODUCTIVE -- DOES THE

SECRETARY HAVE ANY ANSWER FOR AMBASSADOR THORNBURG?

A: I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON A REPORT BY KINSHASA RADIO THAT AN AMERICAN DOCTOR WAS CARRIED AWAY BY THE INVADERS OF SHABA WHEN THEY RETREATED?

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

A: WE SIMPLY HAVE HEARD THE REPORT AND WE'RE LOOKING INTO IT. WE DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION WHICH GOES BEYOND SIMPLY THAT FBIS REPORT AT THIS POINT.

Q: LET ME BROADEN IT. DO WE KNOW OF ANY AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO WERE CARRIED AWAY OR WHO ARE MISSING IN ACTION OR WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED IN THIS AREA?

A: WE NOW BELIEVE THAT WHAT HAD BEEN IN SOME QUESTION -- WHICH WAS THE STATUS OF A NUMBER OF METHODIST MISSIONARIES -- IS NOW SOMEWHAT CLEARER AND THAT ALL THE MISSIONARIES IN THAT AREA, EXCEPT A DR. ESCHTRUTH, ARE NOW SAFELY IN THE HANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN ZAIRE -- IN KAPANGA -- BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER ON THAT ONE QUESTION BUT THAT THE MISSIONARIES GENERALLY ARE ALL REPORTED SAFE AND SOUND IN THE AREA.
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Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU CAN SHARE ON A REPORTED COUP IN ANGOLA?

A: WE'VE READ THE WIRE SERVICE REPORTS, BUT WE DON'T HAVE INDEPENDENT INFORMATION AT THIS POINT.

TO RESTATE THE OBVIOUS, WE DON'T HAVE REPRESEN-TATION IN LUANDA.

TO OUR BEST KNOWLEDGE, AND WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF VISITORS, WE DON'T KNOW OF ANY U.S. CITIZENS THERE. AS FAR AS THE REST OF ANGOLA GOES, WE DON'T HAVE ANY REPORTS OF UNREST ANYWHERE IN THE AREAS OF ANGOLA UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL. THERE ARE A FEW U.S. CITIZENS OUT-SIDE OF LUANDA, MOST OF THEM -- ABOUT 14 -- WORKING FOR GULF OIL IN CABINDA.

Q: ARE YOU SAYING THERE'S NO UNREST IN CABINDA THEN?

A: AS FAR AS WE KNOW, CABINDA IS QUIET AND GULF AT THIS

POINT IS NEITHER AFFECTED NOR INVOLVED IN ANY WAY.

Q: YOU ARE IN EFFECT, THEN, DENYING A REPORT THAT THE

AMERICANS IN CABINDA ARE HAVING TO LIVE ON THE OFFSHORE DRILLING PLATFORMS BECAUSE IT IS TOO UNSAFE TO LIVE IN

THEIR HOMES ON THE LAND?

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

A: WE HAD KNOWN OF EARLIER THREATS AGAINST GULF. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR DIRECT QUESTION ABOUT THEIR LIVING ON RIGS OFFSHORE. I SUGGEST YOU ASK THE COMPANY.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON A CASE IN ETHIOPIA -- A MR.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 125178

FOX -- APPARENTLY, WAS ARRESTED AS A SPY.

A: OUR EMBASSY IN ADDIS HAS REPORTED THAT ADDIS RADIO ANNOUNCED THE ARREST OF DR. LESLIE MARSHALL FOX, THE DIRECTOR OF THE FOSTER PARENT PLAN, AN ETHIOPIAN PROGRAM. FOX WAS DETAINED IN GAMO GOFA PROVINCE, AND IS BEING SENT TO ADDIS.

THE EMBASSY HAS MADE INQUIRIES WITH ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES, AND IS ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO FOX TO DETERMINE THE ACTUAL CHARGES AGAINST HIM.

THE DEPARTMENT IS IN CONTACT WITH THE FOSTER PARENTS HEADQUARTERS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND WITH MR. FOX'S FATHER.
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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2313334
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE MAY 27 PRESS BRIEFING FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY 27 FOR YOUR INFORMATION
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, XA, (YOUNG, ANDREW)
To: AF POSTS
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e026c486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009